

Section 4: Public Participation

The *key to successful implementation* of the Fire Mitigation Program is involvement from the private property owners in Jefferson County and the public who participate in the recreation and tourism within the confines of the county. The public participation process is being assured in four specific ways.

- ❑ Ensure ongoing involvement of private homeowners and/or representatives from the communities served by this process on the planning committees.
- ❑ Increase availability of the Jefferson County Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan and associated information by placing it on the Internet.
- ❑ Correspond with resident and non-resident property owners announcing the development of a wildland/urban interface program and requesting them to complete a brief questionnaire.
- ❑ Facilitation of scheduled public meetings for residents living in the wildland/urban interface areas.

Public Involvement

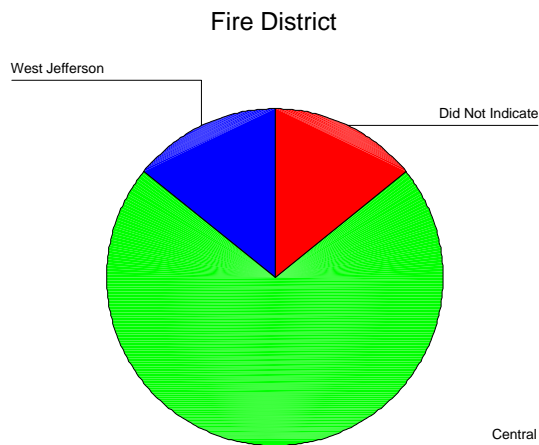
The Jefferson County Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Interagency Planning group has actively announced planning meetings during the development of this Plan. The Group has welcomed individual homeowners and representatives from homeowners associations to all of their meetings and has asked for input of issues facing the homeowners in the interface areas. The Group will continue to work with homeowners during the implementation of mitigation alternatives and in the annual review and assessment of the Plan.

Homeowner Questionnaire

The results from the questionnaire are provided in detail in Appendix 4. There were 90 questionnaires mailed out. Roughly 10% of the questionnaires were returned. The following are highlights of the responses:

- ❑ 86% of the respondents were located in the Central Fire District.
- ❑ 86% responded that they had not participated in hazard reduction activities.
- ❑ 28% responded that they knew what to do if a wildfire affected their community.
- ❑ 57% of the respondents supported an increase in taxes to improve fire protection.
- ❑ 100% indicated that a Wildfire Public Education Program would be beneficial.
- ❑ 100% indicated that they would be willing to participate in wildland/urban interface mitigation activities.
- ❑ 72% indicated that a Web Page would be very beneficial in providing information to them regarding Wildland/Urban Interface Mitigation

The chart below illustrates the response by fire district.



Previous Public Meetings

Based on the interviews of community officials and the discussions during public meetings held in 2000, the Dynamac Corporation ascertained the communities within the Heise/Lorenzo assessment area and would like to see the following steps occur in the assessment area:

- ❑ Increased cooperation between BLM and local agencies on wildland fire issues.
- ❑ Increased ability to control wildland fires by pre-positioning water sources at specific locations north of Heise/Lorenzo.
- ❑ Decrease wildland fire hazards using fuels reduction practices.
- ❑ Increase resident's awareness of proper firewise activities such as landscaping, use of fire-resistant building materials, proper access roads, and emergency evacuation procedures.